



**NEVADA COMMISSION ON
AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS MEETING
ADULTS AND AGING SUBCOMMITTEE**

Monday, July 21, 2014

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

MINUTES

MEETING LOCATIONS

Conference Call From
Grant Sawyer Legislative Building
555 E. Washington Ave., Room 4401
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Agenda items may be taken out of the order listed on the agenda. The items maybe combined for consideration. Items may be delayed or removed at any time.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Announcements

Mark Olson, Chairman called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Voting members Steven Cohen, Vanessa Fessenden, Renee Portnell and Korri Ward were present.

A quorum was present.

2. Public Comment

No comments.

3. Discussion of Scope of Work of Subcommittee, Plan Development Goals and Process for completion

- The Subcommittee will address issues and recommendations for individuals from 18 years to end of life.
- The Subcommittee will serve 100% of Nevada adults with autism spectrum disorders.
- The Subcommittee will address 100% of the needs of individuals in Nevada with autism.
- The approach will be evidence based and fact based and will use studies and research programs from other states to help reach goals.
- The Subcommittee report with recommendations will be done by the end of 2014.

4. Discussion of Relevant Items from 2008 Autism Task Force Report

Mark Olson took relevant recommendations from the 2008 Autism Task Force Recommendations and put them in a new document for the Adults & Aging Subcommittee to discuss. There is a large scope to cover and a lot of work to do before

the end of the year. There are approximately 70 recommendations that pertain to the Subcommittee so they will have to be put into groups.

5. Discussion of Regulations, Funding and Finance

Discussion about financial self-sufficiency for adults with autism – long-term financial planning for these adults so that they have financial assistance going forward. Areas to look into:

- Special needs trusts, savings accounts, bill paying, banking, and other financial vehicles.
- Put together a guide that is helpful to parents and their children for getting assistance (SSI, Medicare, housing, food, transportation).
- Have experts come in and discuss what services and funding is available from their organizations.

There was also discussion about looking at programs in other states to see what they are doing such as the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) of 2011 (US S. 1872/H.R. 3423), Health Insurance for Work Advancement (HIWA) Program, Medicaid, SSI, Self-Determination Bill (CA S. 468), and other sources of funding.

6. Discussion of Employment

Vanessa Fessenden attended the Autism Speaks Leadership Conference and discussed some of the topics:

- Getting small businesses interested in hiring people with autism and other disabilities.
- Have someone come in and speak to the Subcommittee.

Mark Olson discussed programs that North Carolina (Extraordinary Ventures), Colorado and Connecticut have in place. He also discussed the Pepsi three-city program to refurbish vending machines.

- The Subcommittee needs to think of ways to make programs available or expand programs in Nevada so that there are career choices available for adults with autism.
- Transition from school to the workplace. Have someone from the school district come in to discuss.
- Look at Governor Sandoval's economic development program.
- Need to look at Project Search. Marilee Greene discussed gainful employment after graduation.
- Need to look at Employment First Initiative. Jan Crandy suggested that the Subcommittee get a person from that organization to come in and explain the program.

7. Discussion of Housing

Mark Olson discussed ways of providing housing choices for individuals with autism – apartments, group homes, adult foster care, and agricultural settings to give individuals a choice.

- The Subcommittee will look at the programs other states are providing – Michigan, California, Florida and Texas.
- The Subcommittee will look at a full range of settings and full range of funding to see what's working and not working and build a model for Nevada.
- The Subcommittee will look at the cost of housing for individuals.
- Korri Ward discussed the home waiver.

8. Next Meeting Date

The suggested date for the next meeting is: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 from 12:00 – 3:00pm

9. Public Comment

A question was asked about transportation for adults with autism – what is available – getting a license and public transportation.

10. Adjournment

Mark Olson moved to adjourn the meeting. Steven Cohen motioned to adjourn the meeting, Renee Portnell seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 pm.